

More closures, lane shifts coming on I-15

Genelle Pugmire - Daily Herald | Posted: Monday, September 27, 2010 12:25 am |

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Freeway traffic during LDS General Conference weekend is typically congested as people attend mission reunions and other meetings. This coming weekend is no exception. UDOT's Interstate 15 CORE project will have overnight closures, with one full freeway closure, and a traffic switch just about the same time visitors from all over the world are coming to Utah.

"We want to let people know that while we close at night, we try to do these restrictions when we impact the least amount of people," said Scott Thompson, CORE spokesman. "We are trying to minimize the inconvenience."

Thompson hopes that people would leave earlier and return a bit later as they attend conference. He also suggests mission friends try to carpool to their mission reunions on Friday. Above all he asks, "Please be patient; we're building a freeway."

The first closure will be at 500 East in American Fork. All lanes on northbound I-15 will be closed at 500 East in American Fork on Friday from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. while crews set bridge girders on the south bridge of the new interchange. All lanes on southbound I-15 will close Saturday. Lane restrictions will begin at 8 p.m. leading to the full closure at 11 p.m. with traffic diverting to on- and off-ramps. In addition, the 500 East bridge will be closed both nights. For east and west access, motorists are advised to use 100 East or 300 West in American Fork or Pleasant Grove Boulevard.

The other closure will be a full closure on the south end of the corridor at 2700 North in Spanish Fork. Both directions of I-15 will be closed between 400 South in Springville and Main Street in Spanish Fork on Oct. 4 from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Crews will be pouring concrete into pre-cast decks at the 2700 North Bridge. Lane restrictions will begin at 9 p.m. Traffic on I-15 will be detoured to Spanish Fork Main Street and State Road 77 (400 South in Springville). Motorists on U.S. 6 traveling to northbound I-15 will be detoured to State Road 51 and U.S. 89 (Main Street in Springville). Motorists from U.S. 6 to southbound I-15 will not be affected.

According to Thompson, these types of closures are going to continue and become more frequent as time progresses. Right now, Thompson said UDOT is probably 10 percent done with the project and even a little bit ahead of schedule. He said the coming months will see more closures that could come at the same time there are other activities such as football, fall holidays and more.

All this week, the CORE project will also work on another lane switch between Provo and Springville, which raises another concern for travelers not familiar with the construction or changes. "Those making their first trip through the construction area should be extra aware," Thompson said.

The lane changes will be on I-15 between 600 South in Provo to State Road 75 (Exit 261) in Springville. Work for a traffic switch to the east side of I-15 between 600 South in Provo to S.R. 75 in Springville is scheduled to begin this week and be in place by Oct. 1 for the next year.

Crews will also be paving, working on barrier placement and striping, and preparing for

full reconstruction of the opposite side of I-15. In addition, the southbound on-ramp from Provo Center Street to I-15 will be realigned to function with the new traffic switch. The switch will keep the same number of lanes on the freeway during the expansion.

To minimize delays, UDOT encourages motorists to travel wise by carpooling, telecommuting, using alternate routes and shifting travel times. Stay informed by signing up for weekly e-mail updates at udot.utah.gov/i15CORE, following the project on facebook.com/i15CORE and twitter.com/i15CORE and receiving text updates by texting "i15" to 53535.

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